## REMARKS
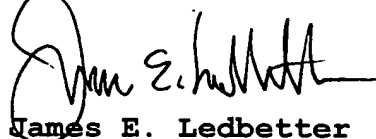
Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 21, 2001

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EXHIBIT 1

5. (Amended) A decoding apparatus according to claim 3 [or claim 4], further comprising a deleting means for deleting, when a known data exists in a code block subjected to error correcting decoding, the known data.

6. (Amended) A decoding apparatus according to [any one of] claim 3 [to claim 5], wherein said error correcting decoding means replaces a soft decision value of the part of the known data of a code block with a maximum value of the soft decision value when the known data is 0 and replaces with a minimum value of the soft decision value when the known data is 1 and carries out error correcting decoding of the known data using the replaced soft decision value.

7. (Amended) A coding/decoding apparatus comprising the coding apparatus according to claim 1 [or claim 2] and the decoding apparatus according to [any one of] claim 3 [to claim 6].

14. (Amended) A decoding method according to claim 12 [or claim 13], further comprising a step of deleting, when a known data exists in a code block subjected to error correcting decoding, the known data.

15. (Amended) A decoding method according to [any one of] claim 12 [to claim 14], wherein said error correcting decoding step

replaces a soft decision value of the part of the known data of a code block with a maximum value of the soft decision value when the known data is 0 and replaces with a minimum value of the soft decision value when the known data is 1 and carries out error correcting decoding of the known data using the replaced soft decision value.

16.    (Amended)    A coding/decoding method that decodes a signal coded by the coding method according to claim 10 [or claim 11] by the decoding method according to [any one of] claim 12 [to claim 15].